

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-6, 9 and 11-13 are amended, and claims 2, 10, 19 and 20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

The Restriction Requirement requires restriction between Group I, claims 1-8 and 16-20, and Group II, claims 9-15. Of Group I, claims 2, 18 and 19 are canceled. In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1, 3-8 and 16-18, with traverse.

Amended claim 1 is drawn to a manufacturing method of magnetic recording medium, for processing an object to be processed in which a continuous recording layer, a mask layer, and a resist layer are formed on each of both surfaces of a substrate in that order to form divided recording layers each formed by a number of divided recording elements on both the surfaces of the substrate.

Amended claim 1 recites "a resist layer processing step of processing the resist layer in predetermined pattern, a mask layer processing step of processing the mask layer in the pattern based on the resist layer, and a continuous recording layer processing step of processing the continuous recording layer in the pattern based on the mask layer to divide the continuous recording layer into the number of divided recording elements; and at least one of the resist layer processing step, the mask layer processing step, and the continuous recording layer processing step is performed to simultaneously process both the surfaces of the object to be processed."

Amended claim 9 is drawn to a manufacturing apparatus of a magnetic recording medium, for processing an object to be processed in which continuous recording layer, a mask layer, and a resist layer are formed on each of both surfaces of a substrate in that order

to form divided recording layers each formed by a number of divided recording elements on both the surfaces of the substrate.

Amended claim 9 recites "a resist layer processing device for processing the resist layer of the object to be processed in a predetermined pattern; a mask layer processing device for processing the mask layer in the pattern based on the resist layer; and a continuous recording layer processing device for processing the continuous recording layer in the pattern based on the mask layer to divide the continuous recording layer into the number of divided recording elements, wherein at least one of the resist layer processing device, the mask layer processing device, and the continuous recording layer processing device is configured to simultaneously process both the surfaces of the object to be processed."

Therefore, the inventions listed as Group I (claim 1 is representative) and II (claim 9 is representative) relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. The requirement for Restriction is therefore improper and should be withdrawn.

Watanabe et al. teaches manufacture of protective films of carbon used to protect the recording layer of the information recording disks. The recording layer taught in Watanabe et al. is continuous film. Watanabe et al. fails to disclose forming divided recording layer. Therefore, Watanabe et al. fails to disclose the features recited in claims 1 and 9.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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